HEALTH 30 OCT 1943 2

LIBRARY

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR

1942

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) A. B. Follows, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health, Part Time.
and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. E.Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch.
Part time.

Dr. E.P.Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,(Edin.))Feckenham " "
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

)Beoley " "
Dr. W.T.Mitchell, M.B.,Ch.B.(Glas.1922))Ipsley
)Upper Ipsley.

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr.E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Redditch.

Dr.E.P.Dawes, L.R.C.P.,L.R.C.S.,(Edin.))Feckenham.
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

)Beoley.
Dr.W.T.Mitchell, M.B.,Ch.B.(Glas.1922))Ipsley.
)Upper Ipsley.

(b) G. H. Champion, Cert. "S.I.B."
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

T. Hope, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (On active service).

Miss A. Lilley - Clerk.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my 9th Annual Report on the Health of the Redditch Urban District. The Report is arranged in accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions contained in Circulars 2604 and 2773.

Certain subjects in which the public have shown special interest during the year will be briefly explained.

The physical health of the people has been good. The high birth rate of 19.38 and the low death rate of 10.75 should give satisfaction, as these figures constitute a record for the last 10 years at least and compare very favourably with the England and Wales figures. The low Infant Mortality Rate (35.93) compared with 49 for England and Wales is also a most encouraging sign.

The figures for infectious disease are comparatively low, and the general decline in diphtheria incidence coincides with an immunisation scheme extending over 10 years which is worthy of note.

The physical state of the community would appear to have actually improved instead of deteriorating as might have been expected after 4 years of war. Not least amongst the factors contributing to this satisfactory state of affairs is an enlightened nutritional policy.

I wish to thank the Councillors, Officials and Staff for their continued co-operation throughout the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area		12,059 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses,	1941	7,264
	1942	7,415
Rateable Value (1st October, 1942)		£133,634
Sum represented by Penny Rate		£554

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 1942	1941	Eng. & Wales 1942
Legit.	480	258	222			
Illegit.	21	8	13	19.38	15.77	15.8

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births 1942	1941
Legit.	18	8	10		
Illegit.	-	-	-	34.68	19.70

DEATHS

Total	M	F	Death Rate per 1,000 Population 1942	1941	Eng. & Wales 1942
278	126	152	10.75	12.37	11.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths 1942	Rate per 1,000 Total Births 1942	1941	Eng. & Wales 1942
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.93	-	0.42)
Other Maternal Causes	1	1.93	-	1.59)
Total	-	3.86	-	2.01)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total	M	F	Infant Mort. Rate per 1,000 live births. 1942	1941	Eng. & Wales 1942
Legit.	18)	9	9	35.93	66.67	49.0
Illegit.	-)	-	-			

	M.	F.	Rate 1942
Legit. Infants per 1,000 legit. live births	9	9	37.50
Illegit. Infants per 1,000 illegit. live births	-	-	-

DEATHS from:-	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 population 1942	1941	Eng.& Wales 194.2
Measles	-	-	0.04	0.01
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	0.02
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	0.00
Diphtheria	1	0.04	0.08	0.05
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0.04	0.04	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	0.12	-
Influenza	2	0.08	0.08	0.09
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	8	0.31	0.39	-
Other Tuberculosis	1	0.04	0.16	-
Cancer	44	1.59	2.22	-
Heart Disease	66	2.39	2.85	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	0.23	1.07	-
Bronchitis	15	0.58	0.91	-
Violence & Suicide	18	0.70	0.75	-
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	6	0.23	0.67	-
Diarrhoea & Enteric (under 2 years)	(4	7.98	4.94	5.2
	(Per 1,000 live births			

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are the same as those given in my previous report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance which deals with non-infectious, accident and maternity cases is under the control of the Council, and is kept at the Council depot in George Street. The vehicle is being called upon to deal with a larger number of cases than ever before, and several difficulties have arisen recently in connection with a new scheme for increasing the efficiency of the service. A second male driver was appointed in May 1942. The position of the ambulance service is still under consideration by the Council.

I wish to record my grateful thanks to the St.John Ambulance men who have given their services (unpaid) to the Council by manning the Ambulance between the hours of 10 p.m. - 6 a.m.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are no changes to report in the District Nursing Associations.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic	Situated	Accommodation	By whom provided	Times of holding
Redditch Child Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage B'grove Road	4 Rooms	County Council & voluntarily	Monday 2 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m.
School Clinic				Thursday 10 a.m.
Dental Clinic	do.	3 Rooms	County Council	Wed. and Frid.10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic				Monday 10 a.m.
Diphtheria Prevention Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	R.U.D.C. & County Council	2nd and 4th Thursday 10 a.m.
Ante Natal Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	County Council	Tuesday 10 a.m.
Astwood Bank Child Welfare Centre	Church Hall Astwood Bank	1 large room 1 small room.	County Council & voluntarily	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis	The Dispensary Elm Road	Waiting Room and Consulting Room.	County Council	Friday 2 p.m.

(c) HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL	NAME	SITUATED	BY WHOM PROVIDED
Tuberculosis	W.C.C. and Bromsgrove Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Knightwick Bromsgrove and Hayley Green.	Under joint control
Infectious Diseases	Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Bromsgrove	ditto.
Scabies.	Tolladine.	Worcester.	W.C.C.
Smallpox	W.C.C.	Worcester	W.C.C.
Maternity	Mary Stevens Lucy Baldwin	Stourbridge Stourport	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Other General	Smallwood Hospital, 37 beds & 2 cots	Redditch	Voluntarily, not Rate-aided.
Venereal Disease.	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council.

806 in-patients received treatment at the Smallwood Hospital during the year, and 1,394 patients were recommended for treatment at the Birmingham and other Hospitals.

The Joint Isolation Hospital at Hill Top, Bromsgrove is under the control of the Redditch, Bromsgrove and Droitwich Joint Hospital Board. Close liason exists between the Redditch Health Department and this Hospital.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The Council is not a Local Supervising Authority, but there were three Registered Nursing Homes in the area during 1942.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER - (ARTESIAN WELL WATER)

Certain improvements have been carried out in the water supplies of this area.

Monthly reports have been received from the Manager of the East Worcestershire Waterworks giving the analysis, chemical and bacteriological, of the mains water supplied to the district. This water has on every occasion been good in quality and fit for drinking.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work on the new sewerage works has proceeded slowly on account of the difficulties of obtaining labour and materials. Everything possible is being done to make the old sewerage works more serviceable and a certain amount of pollution with the River Arrow is unavoidable.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Complaints are received from time to time on the unsatisfactory state of the River Arrow. This state of affairs will be improved when the new sewerage plant is in working order, but unfortunately, there are other sources of pollution.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of pail closets converted into water closets.	2.
Number of trough closets converted into water closets.	Nil.
Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1942:-	
Water Closets.	5307
Automatically flushed W.C's.	357
Waste water closets.	16
Slop closets.	97
Pail closets.	480
Earth closets.	17

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been no important extensions or improvements in the arrangements for Public Cleansing during the year.

House refuse is collected fortnightly and disposed of by "controlled" tipping.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

PREMISES INSPECTED		NO. OF INSPECTIONS
ACCUMULATIONS FOUND	... ...	27
ANIMALS KEPT -	Piggeries	104
	Stables	3
	Fowls, pigeons, etc. ...	32
COMPLAINTS -	Total No. investigated ... (all premises) ...	173
DAIRIES -	Cowsheds	126
	Dairies	24
	Milk Shops	10
DISINFECTION -	No. of houses disinfected	43
	" " other buildings disinf.	8
DISINFESTATION-	No. of houses	26
DRAINAGE -	No. of drains found choked	51
	" " " " defective	11
	" " " tested	17
	Visits to works in progress	83
DWELLING HOUSES -	No. inspected re repairs	143
	Re-inspections	544
	No. inspected re overcrowding	37
	No. found dirty	15
	" " verminous ...	7
INFECTIOUS DISEASES-	Visits re Scarlet Fever ...	31
	" " Diphtheria ...	6
	" " other diseases	3
FACTORIES -	With mechanised power ...	89
	Without mechanised power	14
	Bakehouses	25
FOOD PREMISES-	Butcher shops or stalls ...	112
	Preparation of potted meat, etc.	24
	Fruiterers	41
	Fishmongers and fried fish shops	53
	Restaurants or cafe kitchens	6
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.	No. of visits not otherwise classified	125
SHOPS ACTS -	... ...	63
TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.	... ...	34
WATER SUPPLIES -	Visits to premises re wells	94
	No. of samples taken (chem.)	6
	" " " " (bact.)	6
	Total No. of Inspections -	2216

(iv) IMPROVEMENTS

Houses generally repaired.	60
Wash-houses repaired.	11
Water closets repaired orrenewed.	29
Additional Water Closets provided.	4
Houses cleansed.	15
Verminous premises disinfested.	7
Drains reconstructed.	11
Choked drains cleansed.	51
Dustbins provided.	9
Privy ashpits abolished.	2
Accumulations removed.	13
Cesspools emptied.	7

(v) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Seven houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Liquid insecticide is used for disinfestation and "Zaldecide" is found to be the most effective. The premises are examined 10 - 14 days after treatment.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	185
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	544
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	85
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	143

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. 173.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-	
(a) By Owners	9
(b) By local a uthority in default of owners ..	Nil

(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	61
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..	63
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	423
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES, with mechanical power	89	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES, without mechanical power	14	Nil	Nil
xOTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
xElectrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
TOTAL:	103	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects. Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	-	-	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) insufficient)	3	3	-	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	Nil
not separate for sexes	2	2	-	Nil
Other offences	-	-	-	Nil
TOTAL -	11	11	Nil	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The Register contains 95 Retail Purveyors and 74 Wholesale Traders and Producers. During the year 160 inspections were made.

Licences granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, are as follows:-

Pasteurised (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	1
Accredited (Dealers)	1
Pasteurised (Dealers)	7

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1942:-

635 tins of various foodstuffs.
119 lbs. of Bacon.
90 lbs. of Cheese.
40½ lbs. of Butter.
612 Eggs.
54½ lbs. of Ham.
31 lbs. of Lard.
741 lbs. of Sausages.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. SCARLET FEVER
31 cases (12 males and 19 females) were notified compared with 36 in the previous year. 25 were removed to hospital and 6 were isolated at home. The disease was, on the whole, mild in type.

2. DIPHTHERIA.
6 cases (1 male and 5 females) were notified compared with 12 in the previous year. There was 1 death. All the cases were removed to hospital, and none had been immunised previously.

IMMUNISATION.

852 children were immunised in 1942, (of these 338 were under school age compared with 136 in 1941.) The total of immunised children in Redditch [illegible] 4,339 (i.e. December 31st, 1942)

Immunisation for the prevention of diphtheria has been conducted at Clinics and school premises at intervals throughout the year. Regular Sessions are held at the School Clinic, the Old Vicarage, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the Month and at the Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre on the 2nd and 4th Mondays.

The A.P.T. 2 injection method has been continued~~(and a large number of children have been protected.)~~

The figures from 1933 onwards are as follows:-

	Number treated.	Cases of Diphtheria.	Number of Deaths.
1933	90	105	6
1934	884	107	10
1935	438	19	Nil
1936	153	21	Nil
1937	139	18	2
1938	175	29	2
1939	298	46	2
1940	150	11	Nil
1941	1160	12	2
1942	852	6	1
Totals -	4,339	374	25

No cases of diphtheria have occurred amongst those immunised. The position at 31st December, 1942, making allowance for cases treated privately, deaths and transferred cases is as follows:-

% population treated (1) Under 5 - 62%
(2) 5 - 15 - 88%

Various means of obtaining "consents" have been employed from time to time, but the best method is by personal contact in the home, the Welfare Centres and the Schools through the agency of Health Visitors and the co-operation of teachers.

SCABIES.

It is usual for this skin disease to become more prevalent during war years, and there is no doubt that a large number of cases have occurred in this district, but exactly how many it is impossible to say as the disease is not notifiable.

The Scabies Order was made in October, 1941, which gave plenary powers to Medical Officers of Health, but so far it has not been necessary to take statutory action under this order.

Two ways of dealing with the disease were introduced:-

(1) The preventive for those unaffected by the disease, but nevertheless potential cases owing to their lack of home cleansing facilities.

(2) The curative. For those already affected by the disease.

1. In March 1942 permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health and the Worcestershire County Council to open the cleansing department at the 1st Aid Post in South Street as a bathing station. Hot showers are provided in the evenings at these premises for the use of War Workers who are unprovided with fixed baths in their homes. The times are as follows:-

Men	-	Monday and Wednesday 7-9 p.m.
Women	-	Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 p.m.

At other times of the day it has been possible to arrange with the help of school teachers for certain school children to take advantage of the showers.

A charge of 2d. is made and bathers are asked to bring their own soap and towel. The number of attendances during 1942 was 912.

I wish to record my thanks to the voluntary personnel at the 1st Aid Post who have taken an interest in this work, and who have been responsible for the running of the Station and the proper conduct of the bathers.

2. The sum of £80.0.0d. was spent in providing and equiping a Cleansing Station at the Pheonix Works, Birchfield Road and a cleansing attendant was employed at the rate of 2/6d per hour. The number of cases dealt with here has not been large. Several particularly severe cases have been sent to the Tolladine Hospital, Worcester, under a County scheme by which the District Council are charged 30/- per case irrespective of the duration of the disease.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The County Council is the Authority for Venereal Disease. Cases arising in the Redditch area are referred to the Birmingham General Hospital and to Worcester Infirmary for treatment. This information has been made public on coloured posters and pamphlets prepared by the Central Council for Health Education, and which have been distributed to certain factories and public places.

The series of lectures on sex and venereal disease arranged by the Central Council have been given in Redditch and have been well attended.

TYPHUS.

A scheme for dealing with cases of typhus has been prepared, and a team of three has been selected to work in this district. Special suits have been provided by the Local Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1942.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	31	25	-
Diphtheria.	6	6	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	2	1
Pneumonia.	8	-	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	3	-
Measles.	17	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	3	-	2	1	2	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS -	7	6	2	2	5	1	-	-

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS.

Medical Officer of Health.